



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

648 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

TELEPHONE
(213) 974-1861
FACSIMILE
(213) 229-9924
TDD
(213) 633-0901

JOHN F. KRATTLI
County Counsel

November 28, 2012

TO: SACHI A. HAMAI
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: PATRICK A. WU 
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda**
County Claims Board Recommendation
Claim of Martha Partida

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

PAW:rfm

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Claim of Martha Partida, in the amount of \$150,000 plus waiver of the County's medical bills, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This claim seeks compensation for the wrongful death of a patient allegedly arising from treatment received while hospitalized at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Claim of Martha Partida
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	N/A
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$150,000, plus waiver of the County's medical bills.
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Mark D. Potter, Esq. Potter Handy, LLP
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian Senior Deputy County Counsel
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On December 16, 2010, Eva Partida was admitted to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center ("Rancho") to undergo surgery. On the same day, the patient underwent the scheduled surgery.</p> <p>During the course of her hospitalization, the patient's condition deteriorated and was eventually placed on life-support. On December 27, 2010, the patient expired.</p> <p>The patient's family served a Claim for wrongful death upon the County of Los Angeles contending that care provided by the staff at Rancho was negligent thereby contributing to the patient's death.</p>

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE \$1,098

PAID COSTS, TO DATE \$249

Case Name: Partida, Eva



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	December 27, 2010
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p>On December 16, 2010, Eva Partida was admitted to Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center ("Rancho") to undergo surgery.</p> <p>On the same day, the patient underwent the scheduled surgery.</p> <p>During the course of her hospitalization, the patient's condition deteriorated and she was eventually placed on life-support. On December 27, 2010, the patient expired.</p> <p>The patient's family served a claim for wrongful death upon the County of Los Angeles contending that care provided by the staff at Rancho was negligent thereby contributing to the patient's death.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

Respiratory failure and death resulting from pneumonia.

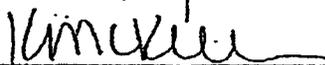
2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

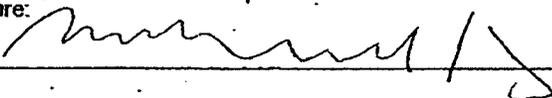
- All appropriate personnel corrective actions have been taken.
- Educational sessions were held at Rancho regarding the management of pulmonary complications.
- A survey was conducted to determine the process of managing medically compromised patients undergoing surgery at DHS hospitals. All DHS hospitals co-manage these patients by surgical and medical doctors.
- A survey was conducted to determine the accessibility of radiology services on the weekends for those patients in the ICU and step-down units. All DHS hospitals have these radiology services available.

County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

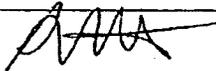
3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management for assistance)

- Potentially has County-wide implications.
- Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- Does not appear to have County-wide or other department implications.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Kimberly McKenzie	
Signature:	Date:
	8/31/12

Name: (Department Head)	
Mitchell Vatz	
Signature:	Date:
	9/16/12

Chief Executive Office Risk Management

Name:	
LEO COSTANTINO	
Signature:	Date:
	9-4-2012